



RECOVERY PLAN & PROCEDURES (DRAFT)
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[redacted] 14 May 1959
For [redacted] (fr Charlie Murphy)
Draft capsule handling procedure submitted per request:

Ops Policy Letter Number 103, Sub: Recoverable Capsule
Handling Procedures - Project CORONA.

1. One of the primary objectives of proj COR is the recovery from orbit of a capsule containing a cassette of photographic film from a recon camera mounted in the vehicle. Provisions have been made to accomplish re-entry of this capsule into the earth's atmosphere and to effect deployment of necessary aids to assist in detection, location and recovery of the descending capsule. Recovery may be accomplished by either of two methods:

a. Recovery by a/c having an air recovery capability equipped with radar and df equipment for capsule acquisition.

b. Recovery by radar equipped surface vessels capable of making a water recovery if the capsule is not recovered in the air.

2. Recovery forces deployment: During the recovery phase, the recovery forces will be deployed within an area centered on 18 degrees N and 164 degrees W off the island of Hawaii. This area will be approx 225 NM N and S and 70 NM E and W. This recovery area may be shifted as info is gathered from the missile tracking stations, the purpose being to attempt to center the recovery area on the estimated impact point of the recovery capsule.

3. Recovery forces - Recovery forces which will be committed to the recovery of the capsule will be:

- a. 552 Airborne Early Warning and Control Wing
 - (1) 3 opnl RC-121 and crews
- b. 6593rd Test Squadron (Special)
 - (1) 8 opnl C-119 a/c and crews
- c. The Hawaiian Sea Frontier
 - (1) 3 opnl surface vessels and personnel.
 - (2) One opnl C-54 and crew from the 76th Air Rescue Squadron.

After recovery, the general procedure will be as foll:.....

NRO review(s) completed.